

REMARKS

The above amendments and the following remarks are fully and completely responsive to the Office Action dated October 13, 2004. Claims 2-8 and 10-18 are pending in this application with claims 1 and 9 cancelled by the present Amendment. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 9-12 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Claims 2-8 and 13 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-8 and 10-18 are presented for consideration.

35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 1, 9-12 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicants' admitted prior art. The cancellation of claims 1 and 9 and the amendment of claims 10 and 14-18, to depend directly or indirectly on claim 13, render this rejection moot. Claim 18 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-8 and 13 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended claims 2 and 13 to place these claims in independent form. Claims 3-8 depend directly or indirectly on claim 2. Similarly, claims 10-12 and 14-18 depend either directly or indirectly on allowable claim 13. Consequently, claims 2-8 and 10-18 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 2-8 and 13.

Conclusion

Applicants' amendments and remarks have overcome the objections and rejection set forth in the Office Action dated October 13, 2004. Specifically, Applicants' cancellation of claims 1 and 9 and the amendment of claims 10 and 14-18, to depend directly or indirectly on claim 13, render moot the rejection of claims 1, 9-12 and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Applicants' amendment of claims 2 and 13 overcomes the objection to claims 2-8 and 13. The Office Action indicated that claims 2-8 and 13 contained allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 2-8 and 10-18 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 2-8 and 10-18.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to attorney docket number 108066-00093.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time

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